Cubans - misc

Florida's Cuban Exile Colony Includes 40 Millionaires

By Theodore A. Ediger

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Living quietly but comfortably within south Florida's big Cuban exile colony is a millionaire set.

Populated by an estimated 40 to 50 Cubans, "Millionaire's Row" extends from Palm Beach to Coral Gables.

Former Cuban president Carlos Prios Socarras is one of the best known. He and his wife Mary live in a home modest in appearance on palm-lined Alton road in Miami Beach. Prio Socarras travels extensively to Mexico and Puerto Rico, where he has investments, and to New York and Washington.

On Normandy Isle to the north is the mansion of Roberto Fernandez Miranda, whose brother-in-law, Fulgencio Batista, overthrew Prio Soccarras in a bloodless revolution in 1952. Batista, toppled in turn by Fidel Castro in 1959, lives in wealth in the Madeira Islands.

Those who left their homeland after 1960 were unable to bring their pesos, due to more stringent restrictions. Before that land and businesses were the main confiscations of the Castro regime.

Exile Jose Bosch, chairman of the board of Bacardi Rum Co., and former Finance Minister, was one of the luckier ones. He remarked, "Fidel Castro took away $70 million from us, and we don't even feel it. We expanded our operations in other countries."

Bosch and his wife, Enriqueta Schueg, granddaughter of the founder of Bacardi Rum, live on Biscayne Bay in Miami.

In the coterie in Palm Beach are persons well known in sugar circles, such as Alfonso Fanjul, Manuel Aspuru and others whose cane property was seized by Castro.

In Coral Gables the home of millionaire architect Alberto Vadia was shot up recently after he rejected telephoned extortion demands of $20,000. Two Cuban exiles were arrested in the case.

Among the others in Millionaires Row:

• Julio Iglesias, president of Shell Oil Co. of Cuba, which Castro took over. He lives in Fort Lauderdale.

• Antonio and Francisco Prio Socarras, brothers of the former president.

• Andres Domingo Morales del Castillo, former secretary and business associate of Batista. He lives in Coral Gables.

• Eduardo Suarez Rivas, former Senate president. He lives in Miami Beach.

• Amletto Battisti, former owner of Hotel Sevilla in Havana. He lives in sort of Bohemian fashion in a Miami Cuban section.